

et al. patent taken with the Nagasaki, et al. patent. With respect to applicants' claims, as amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 38 and 45 have been amended to better define applicants' invention. More particularly, each claim recites that color balance control data is produced based on a first reproduced image signal. Each claim additionally recites correcting the color balance of a second reproduced image signal, different from the first reproduced image signal, on the basis of the produced color balance data.

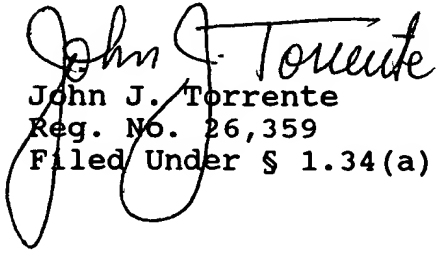
Applicants' amended claims, therefore, follow the Examiner's suggested claim amendment, which the Examiner indicated would render the claims allowable. Thus, the combination of the Sasaki, et al. and Nagasaki, et al. patents is not believed to teach or suggest producing color balance control data based on a first reproduced image signal and correcting the color balance of a second reproduced image signal on the basis of the reproduced color balance data.

Applicants' independent claims 38 and 45, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, are thus believed to patentably distinguish over the cited patents. Accordingly,

reconsideration of the claims and passage of this application to issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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